

REMARKS

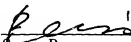
In the outstanding office action, the Examiner requires a restriction of the claims 1-21 to one of the following claim groups: (1) claims 1-7 and 16-18, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 156, subclass 345.4; or (2) claims 8-15 and 19-21, drawn to a method, classified in class 216, subclass 66. The Examiner contends that the claim groups represent distinct inventions and thus the Examiner requires restriction to one of the indicated groupings for examination on the merits.

In response to the outstanding office action, Applicants herein elect group number one (1) directed toward claims 1-7 and 16-18 for prosecution on the merits. Correspondingly, non-elected claims 8-15 and 19-21 are canceled as being directed to non-elected claim groups. Applicants, however, reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims in related applications without prejudice in respect of the present amendment or otherwise.

It is believed that the foregoing is fully responsive to the present office action and that the claims are allowable to Applicants. Consideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorneys at the below-indicated telephone number regarding this response or otherwise concerning the present application. Please charge any required fees for this response, or otherwise concerning the present application, to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 
Soojia Bae
Registration No. (See Attached)
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002
Telephone: 860-286-2929
Facsimile: 860-286-0115
Customer No. 23413

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